

REYNOLDS HISTORICAL SENEALOGY COLLECTION

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## NOTES

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ON THE

## SHIMER, DREISBACH, and BOYER FAMILIES

By CHARLES S. BOYER

CAMDEN, N. J. 1936

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## FOREWORD

This brochure has been prepared in answer to numerous inquiries of those who desire information necessary for admission to certain patriotic societies (Sons of the Revolution and Daughters of the American Revolution). Since members of the branches of the Shimer and Boyer families touched upon in the following pages are widely scattered and many far removed from the original source material, it is hoped these Notes may be of interest.

Much of the information of the early Shimers has been gleaned from the "History and Genealogy of the Shimers in America" by Allan R. Shimer and from notes by Dr. B. F. Fackenthal, Jr. The data on the Dreisbach family was kindly furnished by Mr. Charles R. Roberts of Allentown, Penna., a very conscientious genealogist. This data differs from that recorded in the lineage books of the Daughters of the American Revolution, but, since it is taken from old tombstones and family bibles, must be accepted as authentic. The Boyer ancestry is from papers of this family in possession of the writer.

These pages are reverently dedicated to the memory of my

Father and Mother

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN BOYER

AND

ALABAMA SHIMER BOYER

The inspiration for this brochure came from my Father, who a few years before his death, had collected all the private papers of his father and grandfather that could be found and these have since come into my hands.

CHARLES S. BOYER.

March 1, 1936.

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## GEORGE SHIMER

AND HIS SHIMER ANCESTRY

There are apparently two branches of the Shimer family in America, but whether they came from the same family in the old world has not been definitely settled. One branch headed by Jacob Scheimer (Shimer) came here sometime before 1720, and was by religious profession of the Lutheran persuasion. other branch has as its ancestors, the "three brothers," Frederick, Daniel and Michael. They were generally Methodists Presbyterians and settled principally in Chester and Bedford counties in Pennsylvania and in the northern part of Maryland.

In the following account, we are chiefly concerned with the Jacob Shimer line. His home in the old country was Gersheim, Rheinfalz, Bavaria, Germany. He was married twice, his first wife was Margaret, daughter of Heivert Papen and Elizabeth Rittenhouse, and his second wife was Elizabeth (surname unknown). By this first union, there were four daughters and two sons, one of whom was the celebrated Captain Abraham Shimer, whose fight with the Indians in Sussex county, N. J., is fully described in the "New Jersey Journal" of May 16, 1781. Jacob Scheimer at first lived at Germantown, but later moved to Shippack, Pa., and then to the banks of the Lehigh river, from whence his descendants have spread over Lehigh and Northampton counties in Pennsylvania and into Sussex and Warren counties in New Jersey. It is, however, the descendants of the second marriage, namely that between Jacob Scheimer and Elizabeth, with whom we are concerned in the following data, because it is from this line that George Shimer descended.

1st Generation

JACOB SCHEIMER (SHIMER)

(b. 1679; d. 1757)
Married (1) Margaret Papen
(2) Elizabeth ......

He was buried in the Old Saucon graveyard. There is no doubt that Jacob Shimer came to America in search of civil and religious liberty. He came from the German Palatinate, but exactly when he arrived in America is not known, as no immigration records of the port of Philadelphia exist prior to 1727. That he came prior to 1720 is pretty well established since, in 1721, he is mentioned as the husband of Margaret Papen and lived in Philadelphia county (Philada. Co. Deeds, Book 14, p. 18). Of his sons, Abraham and Anthony were probably by his first wife and Jacob, Conrad, Samuel, Edward, Peter. Isaac and John by his second wife. Peter, Isaac and John by his second wife.

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#### 2nd Generation EDWARD SHIMER

The fourth son of Jacob and Elizabeth Scheimer. (b. 2-28-1741; d. 2-16-1815)

Married Rosina Seip Shimer (widow of his brother, Jacob Shimer) in 1765. She was born in Northampton county 9-17-1739; died 8-14-1822. Edward Shimer was buried in a private burying ground in Northampton township.

Note—Edward Shimer was a member of the Committee of Safety from Lower Saucon township, Northampton county. Penna., and captain of the 4th Company, 1st Battalion of Northampton county militia, under command of Col. George Heuber. (Penna. Archives, 5th Series, Vol. 8, p. 29). His certificate of war service is quoted in "History and Genealogy of the Shimer Family in America," Vol. IV, p. 368. He is buried at Redington, Pa. On August 27, 1925, a tablet was unveiled at the old Saucon Church, near Hellertown, in honor of the service in the Colonial and Revolutionary Wars, of Jacob Shimer and his six sons, Abraham and Anthony by his first wife and Jacob, Samuel, Edward and Isaac Shimer by his second wife, Elizabeth. In 1780, Edward Shimer was assessed at £1207, which was far above the average, only twenty-five inhabitants in the entire county being rated higher.

#### 3d Generation JACOB SHIMER

Eldest son of Edward and Rosina Seip Shimer (b. 1-1-1767; d. 10-5-1845)
Buried in Lower Saucon churchyard.
Married Elizabeth Beyl (Beil) in April, 1791.
(b. 9-15-1772; d. 1-31-1857)

She was the daughter of John Beyl, a large landowner in Northampton county and a prominent citizen of his time. He was a member of the Committee of Safety of Northampton county during the Revolution, and held the office of Justice under the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in 1784. He was one of the organizers of the Stone Church, near Ironville in Lower Saucon, Northampton county, in 1806, and the first president of the Board of Trustees.

#### 4th Generation JOHN BEYL SHIMER

Eldest son of Jacob and Elizabeth Beyl Shimer. (b. 6-7-1792; d. 7-29-1878)

Married Mary (Polly) Schweitzer, April 7, 1816. (b. 2-19-1797; d. 1-11-1873)

Buried in Lower Saucon churchyard.

There were nine children by this marriage, Elizabeth, wife of John L. Riegel, William, George and Samuel (twins), Mary Ann, wife of Christian T. Roth, James O., Sarah J., wife of Dr. Jas. G. Mensch, Jacob T. and Robert A.

#### 5th Generation GEORGE SHIMER

(b. 3-5-1823; d. 11-29-1898)

Married Mary Ann Becker on Feb. 24, 1846. She was born 4-28-1825, died 5-7-1897. See Note on Dreisbach Family. They are both buried in Harleigh Cemetery, Camden, New Jersey.

Note—George Shimer, who was born at Shimerville in Lower Saucon township, Northampton county, Penna., operated a woolen mill in the village for many years, suffering during that time several disastrous fires. The finished products were hauled to Philadelphia for sale and on the return trip the teams would bring back raw materials and other supplies. During this period, James O. Shimer, a brother, became a partner and later the sole owner. In 1872, the machinery was removed first to Philadelphia and then to Camden, New Jersey, in order to be nearer the markets, and his son-in-law, Benjamin F. Boyer, taken into partnership. This partnership was dissolved in 1897 and then Mr. Shimer started in business with his son, Charles R. Shimer, in the manufacture of worsted yarns. During the Civil War, George Shimer took an active part in the civic affairs of the county. Mr. Shimer was an active member of the Lutheran Church and it was largely through his efforts that the Epiphany Lutheran Church was organized and the building at Seventh and Market streets, Camden, erected. Of him it was said "Mr. Shimer was a man of sterling integrity, always pleasant and sociable. Among his large circle of friends, no one knew but to respect him."

#### 6th Generation (1) A

(1) ALABAMA SHIMER

(b. 2-7-1847; d. 12-19-1926)

Married Benjamin Franklin Boyer, May 28, 1868.

(b. 3-30-1836; d. 1-3-1908)

See Note on BOYER FAMILY.

Buried in Harleigh Cemetery, Camden, New Jersey. Had three children.

## (2) JOHN BECKER SHIMER

(b. 8-31-1848; d. 7-5-1864)

Killed in the Civil War, while a member of the 129th Penna. Volunteers.

## (3) JANE ELIZABETH SHIMER

(b. 1-16-1851; d. 3-30-1862)

#### (4) CLARA SHIMER

(b. 5-2-1854)

Married Rev. Clarence K. Binder, Ph. D., Pastor of the Epiphany Lutheran Church of Camden, New Jersey, Dec. 4, 1883. He was born 3-8-1849 and died 5-26-1862.

Rev. C. K. Binder buried in Harleigh Cemetery. No children. She now lives at Wilmington, North Carolina, with her brother, Charles R. Shimer.

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## (5) LILLY SUSANNAH SHIMER

(b. 11-20-1855)
Married Joseph F. P. Read of Camden, N. J., Oct. 10, 1883. He was the son of Joseph J. and Cecelia Rue Read and was born 2-14-1859; died 11-20-1909.

There were two children by this union. Mrs. Read now lives in Portland, Oregon, with her daughter Mr. Read is buried in Tacoma, Washington.

## (6) CHARLES RAYMOND SHIMER

(b. 2-27-1864)

Married (1) Julia F. Collings of Camden, New Jersey.

(2) Eugenia Hayman of North Carolina. (b. 10-19-1884)

There are five children by the second marriage. He and his family now live in Wilmington, North Carolina.

#### 7th Generation

Benjamin F. and Alabama Shimer had

(1) CHARLES S. BOYER
Born in Bethlehem, Penna., 5-23-1869.
Married Anna Wilson DeRousse of Camden, New
Jersey, April 27, 1904. She was the daughter of Louis
T. DeRousse and Anna Wilson Fitzgerald and was born
12-21-1875.

There are no children by this marriage. They now live in Moorestown, New Jersey. Charles S. Boyer is a former president of the New Jersey Society Sons of the Revolution and has been for many years president of the Camden County Historical Society.

## (2) JANE ELIZABETH BOYER

(b. 12-5-1871)
Married Dr. Paul Mulford Mecray, Oct. 19, 1900. He is the son of Dr. James Mecray and Elizabeth Schellenger Hughes. He was born in Cape May, 10-24-1872.

They have two children and now live in Moorestown, New Jersey.

#### (3) BENJAMIN RALPH BOYER

(Born in Camden, N. J., 3-31-1875)
Married Louise Newbold Groves of Riverton, New Jersey, Oct. 3, 1907. She is the daughter of the late F. S. Groves, Sr., and Elouise Earp and was born 4-4-1879.

They have two children and live at Riverton, New Jersey.

Joseph F. P. and Lilly S. Read had

(1) GEORGE SHIMER READ (b. 5-29-1885; d. 8-30-1909)

> Buried in Harleigh Cemetery, Camden, New Jersey. He was drowned in Florida.

will written as said you will be a series  (2) JOSEPHINE CECELIA READ (b. 3-11-1889) Married Irvin Germon Martin of Portland, Oregon, Aug. 30, 1913. They have one child and now live at Portland, Oregon.

Charles R. and Eugenia Shimer have

- (1) GEORGE HAYMAN SHIMER (b. 5-16-1911)
- (2) JOHN SHIMER (b. 10-1-1913)
- (3) CLARENCE BINDER SHIMER (b. 2-5-1916)
- (4) RALPH BOYER SHIMER (b. 2-22-1921)
- (5) CHARLES RAYMOND SHIMER (b. 11-4-1922)

8th Generation

Dr. Paul M and Jane E. Mecray have

- (1) HELEN MECRAY (b. 10-1-1901) Married Dr. Raul Ramirez Betancourt, Oct. 10, 1934. He was born in Havana, Cuba, 1-11-1902.
- (2) PAUL MULFORD MECRAY, JR., M. D. (b. 7-18-1908) Married Justine Godchaux Eisman, of St. Louis, Mo., July 6, 1935. She was born 7-21-1911.
  - B. Ralph and Louise N. Groves have
- (1) PHYLLIS BOYER (b. 8-9-1908) Married William Edgar Green, of Trenton, New Jersey, May 23, 1934. He was born 7-17-1912. They have one son and now live at Orford, New Hampshire.
- (2) ELOUISE GROVES BOYER (b. 12-28-1910)

Irvin G. and Joseph C. Martin have one child, IOSEPH READ MARTIN (b. 11-23-1924)

9th Generation William E. and Phyllis Green have one son, WILLIAM PETER GREEN (b. 5-13-1935)

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## DREISBACH FAMILY

#### SIMON DREISBACH, SR.

Born in Wittgenstein, Bavaria, Germany, Aug. 7, 1698. Emigrated to America in 1743. Arriving in Philadelphia on September 20, in the ship Lydia, James Abercrombie master, from Rotterdam. (Pa. Archives 2<sup>d</sup> Series, Vol. XVII, p. 240). He was married in Germany about 1720 to Mary Catharine (surname unknown) (b. 3-17-1696; d. 5-20-1768). He died March 21, 1785, in Lehigh township, Northampton county, Penna. They are both buried at the Kreidersville Stone Church in Allen township, Northampton county, Penna.

### SIMON DREISBACH, JR.

Born in Oberndorf, Wittgenstein, Bavaria, Germany, Feb. 18, 1730. He came to America in the ship Lydia, James Abercrombie master, from Rotterdam and qualified Sept. 20, 1743. (Pa Archives, 2<sup>d</sup> Series, Vol. XVII, p. 240). On April 7, 1752, he was married in St. Michael's and Zion Church, Philadelphia, to Mary Dorothea Dies, a widow (b. 4-26-1732; d. 7-8-1773). In the record as it appears in Penna. Archives, 2<sup>d</sup> Series, Vol. IX, p. 294, this name is written Simon Freysbach and that of his wife omits the Mary. They were married by license. Simon died Dec. 17, 1806, in Allen township, Northampton county, Penna., and is buried in Kreidersville Church.

Note—Simon Dreisbach, Jr., was a brother of Colonel Yost Dreisbach and of John and George Dreisbach. He was a delegate to the Convention of July 15, 1776 (Pa. Archives, 2<sup>d</sup> Series, Vol. III, p. 681), of the Assembly from 1776 to 1780; one of the judges of election for delegates to the Provincial Convention (Pa. Archives, 2<sup>d</sup> Series, Vol. III, p. 652); one of the Commissioners appointed by the Pennsylvania War Office to collect blankets for the Continental Troops, May 2, 1777, member of the Council of Censors, Oct. 20, 1783. During the war he rendered efficient service in organizing and maintaining the militia of the county of Northampton, Penna. (H. M. M. Richards "The Pennsylvania Germans in the Revolutionary War, 1775-1783," p. 436).

## JACOB DREISBACH

Fifth child and one of twelve children of the above, was born July 27, 1759. He married Anna Margaret Bieber (b. 3-27-1763; d. 4-6-1857) in 1783 and died Jan. 14, 1817. (Bible record).

#### SUSANNAH DREISBACH

The third of nine children of Jacob and Anna M. Dreisbach, was born Sept. 15, 1790. She married the Rev. Jacob C. Becker, D. D., April 27, 1813. (Bible record).

## MARY ANN BECKER

Was the daughter of Rev. Jacob C. and Susannah Becker and was born April 28, 1825. She married George Shimer Feb. 24, 1846, and in 1871 moved to Camden, New Jersey.

## ALABAMA SHIMER

Was the oldest child of George and Mary Ann Shimer and married Benjamin Franklin Boyer as already noted.

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## BENJAMIN F. BOYER

AND HIS BOYER ANCESTRY

The Boyer family as it is found in America comes from three distinct sources under different spellings, but all clearly from the same origin. Thus the name in Austria is spelled Boiar; in Germany it is Bayer, Baier, Beyer, Beier, Byer and Buyer; in France it is almost universally Boyer; in Ireland and Scotland an "s" is added, making it Boyers, while in England, Bowyer is the common spelling. The family itself is widely scattered over the Western Hemisphere and it is useless to try and fix, even, if this were possible, a common origin. The religious beliefs of the pioneer settlers may furnish some clue as to the part of the old world from whence they came. The French Boyers were all Huguenots, who usually allied themselves with the Reformed Church, the Germans were generally Lutherans or Mennonites, the Irish Boyers were generally Presbyterians, while the English Bowyers in the Southern states were either Church of England adherents, or Methodists. In Canada, the far West and the far South the Boyers were generally Catholics.

We are here only concerned with the Pennsylvania Boyers, but again we are confronted by so many pioneers, having no apparent blood relation that it is impossible to establish a patriarch. Probably all of them came from the Palatinates along the Rhine, either directly, or through Holland. The language which they brought with them, or soon adopted, is a mixture of the Bavarian dialect with a large mixture of words from the Dutch language, so that the "patois" has a distinct local flavor, generally known as "Pennsylvania Dutch." Dr. Charles C. Boyer says, "The fact that the Pennsylvania Boyers soon very generally gave up the Germanic spelling of their name for the French spelling shows the feeling with which, in spite of the religious and political evils which had exiled them to America, they still felt the French blood in their veins.

The earliest authentic record we have found of the ancestor of Benjamin Franklin Boyer is John, or Johannes Boyer, whose will was dated March 1, 1814. His descendants were as follows:

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### JOHN (JOHANNES) BAYER

(b. 8-15-1742; d. 1-5-1825) Married Anna Maria Lerch. (b. 11-21-1750; d. 3-19-1825)

Both are buried in old Lower Saucon Church cemetery. He was a private in the Second Company, Second Battalion of Colonel Behm's Regiment of Northampton (Penna.) Militia, being enrolled as John Byer (Penna. Archives, 5th Series, Vol. 4, p. 645). In 1810, John Boyer conveyed to his oldest son, Jacob, a 40 acre tract of land for the sum of £675 gold or silver coin, lawful money of Pennsylvania, and subject to the delivery of the following articles annually, viz:

"Six Bushels of Merchantable Wheat, Six Bushels of Merchantable clean Rye—Four Bushels of good Corn in grain, six Cord of Wood, cut in the Winter Season and Piled up during the Summer Season and hawl the same to the House of the sd John Beyer & Maria his Wife annually during their joint Life and the Life of the Survivor of them and cut the same fit to be used in the stove."

This was probably part of a tract of 45 acres which Peter Laubach conveyed to Johannes Beyer by deed dated April 12, 1764. Throughout a series of old papers in possession of the writer, the surname is written indiscriminately Bayer, Byer, Beyer or Boyer up to about 1825, when the spelling is generally Boyer.

The writer has in his possession two certificates signed by the Collector of the 8th Collection District of Pennsylvania and dated February 5, 1814, and January 5, 1816, to the effect that John Boyer of Lower Saucon township had paid the United States government tax on a "two wheel CARRIAGE [called a chair]" owned by him. This showed that he was a man of more than the average estate for this region.

#### ISAAC BOYER

(b. 2-13-1787; d. 9-5-1875)

Married Elizabeth Riegel, daughter of Matthias Riegel.

(b. 6-2-1794); d. 5-24-1864)

They had ten children, eight sons, John, Samuel, Joseph H., George W., William D., Francis R., Lewis M., and Benjamin F. and two daughters, Susanna (Weitknecht) and Catharine E. (Luckenbach).

#### BENJAMIN FRANKLIN BOYER

(b. 3-30-1836; d. 1-3-1908)

Was born in lower Saucon township, Northampton county, Penna.

Married Alabama Shimer. (b. 2-7-1847; d. 12-19-1926)

He entered the Civil War as a second lieutenant of Company C in the 153rd Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers, Colonel Charles Glanz commanding, and was discharged for ill health. ("The Volunteer's Manual; or Ten Months with the 153<sup>d</sup> Penna. Volunteers, etc.," by Simmers and Bachschmid). Later he engaged in the business of manufacturing shovels at Allentown and in general foundry work in Saucon township, Northampton county, Pennsylvania. In 1872, he became a member of the firm of George Shimer & Boyer, manufacturers of woolen yarns in Camden, New Jersey. When George Shimer withdrew from the business in 1896, he continued it with his two sons, Charles S. and B. Ralph as B. F. Boyer & Co., and, in 1901, the corporation of B. F. Boyer Co., was formed. This was continued until March, 1929, and the corporation dissolved in 1936.

THE ISSUED OF RELEASE COLUMN TOWN RELIGIZATION LONG TO ALL DE LEGISLAND THE RESIDENCE OF THE PARTY OF T The state of the s  At the time of his death, many fine tributes were paid by the Press to his sterling worth, as evidenced by a few extracts herewith presented.

"The news of the death of Mr. Boyer spread like wildfire throughout the city and expressions of sincere regret were heard from men in all walks of life who had been acquainted with Mr. Boyer for many years."

"Mr. Boyer was a good citizen, a devout Christian, a kind and loving father, a sincere friend, a friend to the poor and oppressed, and a man who did everything in his power to advance the interest

of the city and welfare of his fellow man."

"Mr. Boyer was for years a trustee of the First Presbyterian Church, Fifth and Penn streets. He was also an active member of the Board of Trade, using his influence to attract other manufacturers to this city."

Camden Post-Telegram, January 3, 1908.

"Mr. Boyer was highly esteemed by a large number of our citizens. Not only was he a man who had the affection of men of his own years, but to the younger generation he endeared himself by his uniform courtesy and kindly interest. While in no sense a politician, he was always interested in political affairs and was one of those who voted the Republican ticket almost at the birth of that party."

West Jersey Press, January 4, 1908.

"He possessed one of the loveliest characters, affable, courteous and generous, a dear lover of nature, and no matter how busy, he had time to admire flowers and delighted in their growth.

The Camden Courier, January 4, 1908.

Resolutions of the Board of Trustees of the First Presbyterian Church (Camden) adopted at a meeting held January 6, 1908:

"We have heard with great sorrow of the passing away of our beloved friend and brother, Mr. Benjamin F. Boyer."

"Mr. Boyer was for many years a faithful and efficient member of this Board, regular in his attendance, and having the best interests of the church at heart."

"His counsels were always wise and discreet, and his presence amongst us was a help and an uplift to us all."

"We extend our deep sympathies to his household in this hour of their great grief, and we pray that God may soften their anguish and may sustain them by His grace."

"The resolutions shall be written in the minutes of the Board, and a copy of them shall be sent to the afflicted family."

Signed,

"L. W. PLANT, President

DAVID JESTER, Secretary."

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The following minute was adopted by the Executive Committee of the Board of Trade (Camden), January 4, 1908:

"In the death of Benjamin F. Boyer, which occurred on Friday, January 3, 1908, the Board of Trade lost one of its most useful and influential members. By his presence at all the meetings he attested his interest in the advancement of Camden's betterment and growth. Of model demeanor, courteous, yet determined in the execution of what he conceived to be right, he never faltered in his expressions of condemnation or praise. As a member of the Board of Directors, he faithfully discharged the duties and promptly responded to the calls made upon him. Possessed of an amiable disposition, he attracted lifelong friends who will sadly miss the familiar smile with which he always extended greeting."

"As a man of business, by his faithful adherence to honesty and integrity, he has the respect and esteem of the entire community and left an unsullied reputation as a monument to fidelity and trust worthy of emulation."

"In meeting of the Board of Directors assembled this fourth day of January, 1908, it was resolved that the above be spread upon the minutes and that a copy be sent to the bereaved family to whom we extend our heartfelt sympathy."

[Signed] W. LEONARD HURLEY,
President.

Louis T. DeRousse, Secretary.







